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From the Yearly meeting of
women friends - 1847

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FROM THE

YEARLY MEETING OF WOMEN FRIENDS,

HELD IN

PHILADELPHIA,

By adjournments, from the Tenth of the Fifth Month,
to the Fourteenth of the same, inclusive, 1847,
To the Quarterly, Monthly, and Preparative Meetings
composing it.

PHILADELPHIA:
T. ELLWOOD CHAPMAN,
No. 74 North Fourth Street.
1847.

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EXERCISES, &c.

To the Quarterly, Monthly, and Preparative Meetings.

Under the fresh anointing of gospel love, which has been spread as a canopy over our annual gathering, our absent sisters have been remembered, and in reviewing the state of our Society and its various testimonies, we have desired that you may partake of the refreshment we have received through the living exercises, which have been offered among us, and which have been to some of our spirits, as "the dew, and as the small rain upon the tender herb," stimulating us to seek after an increase of love to our heavenly Father, and one unto another. That love which will so redeem from the spirit of the world, that when our mid-week meeting day comes, we shall not only find the mothers ready to leave their home-cares, and gather with their friends, but the daughters, who have passed beyond the period of childhood, will also, under this gathering influence, be found prepared to aid and strengthen the spirits of the mothers, by manifesting a willingness to accompany them to their several meetings, and in thus gathering under a sense of our dependence, waiting upon the great *I AM*, we will know of a truth, that the Father teacheth his people himself. Encouragement has been extended, to give heed to *these teachings* and so abide in *divine strength*, that as He who hath called us is holy, "so we may be holy in all manner of conversation"—then will our tongues be kept from all evil, and the law of kindness bear rule, leading us to do unto others as we would they should do unto us.

The subjects contained in the third query, called forth the expression of a living concern that a pursuit of the fleeting

pleasures or treasures of time, may not so occupy the mind as to unfit it for those considerations of high import, which become us as recipients of those heavenly principles which are plants of our Father's right hand planting. These call for culture, that they may yield their fruit every month, and their leaves be for the healing of the nations. The desire has been expressed, that with our young friends, these trifling gratifications may give place to those enjoyments which perish not with the using; and instead of indulging in the abundant fictions of the day, there may be a careful and frequent perusal of scripture truths and other solid and instructive reading, seeking the companionship and guidance of the Divine Mind; then, when the hour of trial and the times of bereavement come, there will be a place of refuge known, to which they can repair and find comfort and support. And our young sisters have also been encouraged to lend an ear to the still small voice, while engaged in decking the tabernacle of clay. A voice, which would often be heard speaking this language, "The adorning of a meek and quiet spirit is in the sight of God of great price;" and as these heavenly monitions are attended to, the daughters may be qualified and come up in the place of the mothers who have passed from works to rewards, and in laying aside their superfluities, they will have wherewith to aid the needy, and realize the truth that it is more blessed to give than to receive. They were further encouraged to employ their talents in the instruction of the destitute and neglected children around them without distinction of color, and to be found visiting the chambers of the sick, and sitting by the couch of those who are on the verge of eternity, fully believing that such labours of love will yield the return of peace. Through the several sittings of the meeting, evidence has been furnished, that a lively interest continues to be felt by many of our members for the support of our testimonies against war, slavery, and intemperance, and there has been encouragement offered, so to maintain our standing that we be not turned aside from the faithful performance of individual

service relative thereto; thus will these testimonies be preserved in brightness, and our influence, if rightly exerted, tend to strengthen our husbands, brothers and sons, in the support and exaltation of those principles which promote peace on earth and good will to men.

A concern has been felt for the support of our testimony to a free gospel ministry, which gathers to the true place of waiting, and that we be not drawn aside to seek after a ministry, which stands in the enticing words of man's wisdom, and leads from a dependence upon the immediate revealings of light and love, unto which we desire the attention of our youth may be directed, as affording that sustenance which can alone satisfy the immortal spirit.

An interest has been afresh manifested in relation to the condition of our Indian brethren and the oppressed African race; and in view of these subjects much encouragement has been given to individual faithfulness.

A report from the Committee on Education and Libraries was read, and united with. It being the prevailing sense of the meeting, the committee was released, but that no loss may be sustained thereby, a desire was expressed that Friends in their different neighborhoods may be alive to the importance of a rightly guarded education and the improvement of the schools in their vicinities.

Epistles have been read, from our sisters of other yearly meetings, and read to satisfaction. We have also had the acceptable company of several Friends from a distance.

Under the travail that has been manifested that we may be banded together in love, we have been greatly encouraged. Believing we have been drawn together in that cementing feeling, which, if rested under, will unite us as a three-fold cord, not easily broken, and lead to the cultivation of sisterly condescension and christian forbearance, under which we can acknowledge, that there are diversities of gifts from the same Spirit.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

MARY S. LIPPINCOTT, *Clerk.*

as recommended that committees be appointed in all the intermediate meetings, to report to their respective quarters the progress of schools and the progress of education and libraries among them, and that this information be forwarded by those committees, to the yearly meeting.

Quarterly meetings are requested to furnish their quotas during the ensuing year.

AN EPISTLE

Genesee Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held at Livingston, by adjournments, from the 15th of 6th Month, to the 19th of the same, inclusive, 1846.

When are we permitted to assemble together to transact the concerns of Society, and as our minds have been humbled under the influence of divine love that embraces and ennobles the whole human family, we have been led to take into view the responsibilities that rest upon us as a society. Never before a time when it was more important than the present for us to dwell deep, and have access to the pure fountain of life, that we may be qualified to exalt the standard of piety, to promote "peace on earth and good will to men."

Dear sisters, let us arise and put on the whole armour of God—truth, love, and mercy—that our lights may so shine before the nations, that others seeing our good works may be glorified, by the drawing cords of love, to forsake the evils which abound in the world, and come into the glorious participation of that peace which the world cannot give, neither can it be maintained. Let us not rest satisfied with the labours of our predecessors, who, in their day, most faithfully advocated the cause of truth and right through many and severe persecutions, but carry on the work which they so nobly began. When we consider the position, through the divine economy, which woman is intended to occupy, and the influence she can exert in society, can we, dear sisters, be remiss, and fold our

arms in ease, when so much remains to be done for the amelioration of the human family, by the advancement and spread of those excellent principles and testimonies which will disen-
thrall the human mind, and prepare it to take heed to the pure Word, the light of Christ within, which alone can make us free, and enable us, by the same rule, to acknowledge the freedom of every mind that embraces the truth, though it may not be led in the same path with ourselves. Much good counsel has been extended, that we view with charity the exercises and labours of many of our concerned brethren and sisters who feel it incumbent on them to extend their labours and influence a little beyond what some of us deem best for us to go. Remember, Christ said to the disciple, "If I will that he tarry till I come what is that to thee, follow thou me." We all have duties to perform, and let us all in that kindness and love which emanates from the fountain of all good, set about the great work of reformation, both in ourselves and as far as the truth owns extend unto others. Our heavenly Father is no respecter of persons. The whole family of man is alike the object of his parental care, and if some, by their faithfulness, have received a greater share than others, of this heavenly light, which shows in what consists our true and only happiness, surely condemnation will be ours, if we hide it under a bed, or under a bushel, that it cannot shine and give light to all in the house, or to all with whom our lot may be cast.

On examining the state of society, we find many deficiencies to lament, among which, that of the neglect of attending our religious meetings was cause of deep exercise, and we were renewedly admonished in gospel love to attend more strictly to this important duty.

An earnest solicitude was expressed, that mothers may more sensibly feel the importance of the high trust which their station involves, and endeavour so to direct the tender minds of their children as will produce, in after years, the blessed fruits of virtue and holiness.

The children and youth were tenderly invited to a cheerful obedience to the instruction of pious parents, and in early life to give heed to the manifestations of divine light, which will guide them in the path of safety, and protect them from the dangers that surround them.

An interesting report on Indian concerns has been read in our meeting, and we rejoice that the labor of friends has been so greatly blessed among that injured class. We desire they may still improve until they are elevated to a standing among their more civilized brethren.

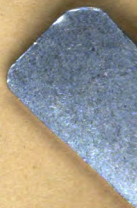
The claims of that deeply injured and degraded people, the descendants of Africa, is still felt by us with increasing weight, and although little has been expressed in this meeting respecting the unholy system of slavery, or the sympathy which we ought ever to feel for the poor oppressed, yet we trust in every heart there arise aspirations to the Father of mercies, that he will break their heavy yoke and let the oppressed go free; and may none neglect the performance of every duty that is required of them, towards this afflicted portion of the human family.

We have had the company of several beloved sisters from other yearly meetings; and exhortations have flowed freely to promote that blessed unity and love which is the badge of true discipleship. With sisterly affection we bid you farewell, and remain your friends.

Signed on behalf of the meeting by

MARY A. WHITE, Clerk.

We received your acceptable communication, which was very cordial to our best feelings.



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